



Home Reading Books/Home School Reading Partnership

Following on from parental feedback we have produced a general information leaflet about reading. This is in order to help parents:

- to better understand the school's reading system,
- to provide an overview of book bands (the publishers' system for grading books),
- to provide tips on how to support reading skills at home.

The teaching of reading at Key Stages 1 and 2 consists of two dimensions:

- word reading
- comprehension (both listening and reading).

Our teaching focuses on developing pupils' competence in both dimensions; different kinds of teaching are needed for each.

Skilled **word reading** involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words (decoding) and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words. Underpinning both is the understanding that the letters on the page represent the sounds in spoken words. This is why phonics and a range of other learning to read strategies are emphasised in the early teaching of reading when they start school.

The teaching of **phonics** begins in EYFS. In the main this is delivered using the DfE recommended scheme called 'Letters and Sounds'. Pupils are introduced to initial sounds through modelling, repetition, good listening, playing games and doing work involving sounds. Carefully planned activities are set up to help consolidate phonic learning. Phonics is taught in phases and as the children progress into Year 1 they may be in separate groups working at different phases if needed. There are six phases in all and progress is monitored regularly. At the end of Year 1 all pupils take a national phonics test and the results are included in the pupil's annual report. Again, the help and support at home is really welcomed and can make a significant difference to the child's success. **Top Tip to support at home: to practice key words (sight recognition).**

Good **comprehension** draws from linguistic knowledge (in particular of vocabulary and grammar) and on knowledge of the world. Comprehension skills develop through pupils' experience of high quality discussion with the teacher, parents and other contributors, as well as from reading and discussing a range of stories, poems and non-fiction. **Top Tip to support at home: to talk about the pages/ chapter/ book read. Express an opinion- What did you like? What did you think about.....? What might happen next? Why did the author choose this...../these words.....?**

We encourage all pupils to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction. This helps children to gain knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live, to establish an appreciation and love of reading, and to gain knowledge across the curriculum. Reading widely and often increases pupils' vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech. Reading also feeds pupils' imagination and opens up a treasure-house of wonder and joy for curious young minds. **Top Tip to support at home: to encourage your child to read a range of books and genres. Join the local library. Read more challenging books to your child so that they can hear the richness of language and to stimulate their imagination. Read together. Let your child see you reading!**

We believe that it is essential that, by the end of their primary education, all pupils are able to read fluently, and with confidence so that they are ready for their next stage of education moving onto secondary school. With consistent, positive parental/carer support success at the highest levels is possible.

'Believe and achieve. Be the best you can be!'

Book Band
LILAC
PINK Band 1
RED Band 2
YELLOW Band 3
BLUE Band 4
GREEN Band 5
ORANGE Band 6
TURQUIOISE Band 7
PURPLE Band 8
GOLD Band 9
WHITE Band 10
LIME Band 11
KS2 BROWN
KS2 GREY
KS2 BLUE
KS2 RED

Book Bands

Book banding is a system of colour coding books from a variety of publishers into graded reading levels. The advantage of this system is the ability to purchase a wider range of books and build more choice for your child. A disadvantage is that some publishers have their own colour systems, which doesn't match this, leading to some confusion – in which case you should pay attention to the coloured sticker we have added to the book (hopefully over the publisher's colour).

Your child will bring home a reading book to share with you. If your child is in reception this will include picture books as well as those with simple words, that in time your child will be able to recognise and read. Home reading books are not designed for you to teach your child to read but to aid practice, gaining greater confidence and fluency ('reading miles!'). Children need lots of practice so that they can secure the skills that they have been taught in school.

In each colour band there is still some range within the bands so you may notice that some books appear to be easier to read whilst others require a little more support from you.

Usually one school reading book will be sent home. This will allow for lots of practice as well as leaving time to enjoy other home books too.

Books in brown to red in KS2 bands will be published books appropriate for the age group and supplemented with 'real books' such as Diary of a Wimpy kid which we have sorted and this selection will be regularly updated with new releases/ authors.

The main foyer and library hosts the daily readers for all year groups as well as our library books. This includes a selection on loan from Essex Library as part of our annual agreement. These are changed during the year to ensure interest and variety.

The following chart gives a rough guide as to which colour book is expected for each year. Please remember there is a wide range of normal achievement and some children may 'click' a little later than their friends and catch up or even race past them.

Book Band colour	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
lilac							
pink							
red							
yellow							
blue							
green							
orange							
turquoise							
purple							
gold							
white							
lime							
brown							
grey							
blue (KS2)							
red (KS2)							

The National Curriculum

This sets out what the children in each year group are expected to know and do by the end of their year group or key stage. This is known as the age related expectations. We teach the contents of the national curriculum explicitly as well as weave core skills into the whole curriculum to give extra coverage and practice as it is essential that pupils can use and apply these skills in a range of situations.

For each year group we have produced a separate Age Related Curriculum Booklet that sets out the learning expectations in 'I can' statements to make them more accessible. This is on our website and should be referred to for detailed information. In addition, the full national curriculum can be viewed from the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335186/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_English_220714.pdf

Reading log

Staff regularly look at each child's **reading record** to see how much a child is practising at home. In addition, the reading logs are also monitored by the leadership team as it provides more information about a child's progress and motivation. The reading log is used by the teacher to record when they have read to your child, this may be on an individual level or through a Guided Reading session when a specific reading skill is taught. In Year 2 the reading log is used to provide additional evidence of a child's progress and achievement when the teacher makes a final assessment and judgement at the end of Key Stage 1 Statutory Tests (SATs). **Top Tip to support at home: Read daily with your child (recommendation- infant pupils daily and at least 2-3 times a week with KS2). Make a record in the reading log of your initial/ date and add a comment if you wish to do so.**

Non returned or damaged books

As a new school we are fortunate to have all new resources which are immediately appealing and motivating for the children. We take care of our resources and are proud to be able to offer such high quality reading material. It is essential that every child respects and takes care of their reading book. Please do not allow

younger siblings to eat/bend/draw on them. In addition, if for any reason a book gets lost or damaged (e.g. a water bottle leaks all over the pages) then please speak to the class teacher. You will be asked to either replace the book or make a reasonable donation to replace it (as per our Charging and Remissions Policy).

Top Tip to support at home: Take special care of school books. Keep them away from younger siblings, animals and water bottles. If they are damaged in any way please do bring this to the attention of the class teacher.

My child wants to read their own book

Children in KS2 who love reading may have progressed to reading longer novels and may wish to just concentrate on reading this. This is fine, as is your child reading one of their own home books as long as it is age appropriate, and named. Each KS2 class has built some quiet reading time into their day to build reading stamina and allow the children to get lost in a book.

Top Tip to support at home: Encourage your child to read widely and often. Older readers need support and encouragement too in particular with questions that check understanding (comprehension) and to explain new vocabulary.

My child has read this book before

Children are encouraged to select their own book and this may lead to them bringing home the same book. This may be because they don't remember having read it, they particularly enjoyed it or they like the comfort of a familiar book. Staff do support children when they are choosing books: talking to them about how they choose books, the blurb, favourite authors, topics etc as part of developing their love of books but we very much like the children to choose. Please let us know if your child is having too many repeated books and we'll address this.

Top Tip to support at home: Talk to your child about how they choose their book. Look at other books on line. (See below).

Some useful sites are listed below:

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/library-page>

<https://www.readingchest.co.uk>

<http://www.bugclub.co.uk/>

<http://www.thebookpeople.co.uk>

<http://www.firstnews.co.uk/>

<http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>

ipad

Collins Big Cat – 8 **free** book apps (you can storyboard and record your own story on some of these).

Nosy crow –interactive story books.

Storybots – fantastic but works on a monthly membership of £2.99 – try the free ones.

Top Tip to support at home: if you find some great sites, especially free ones, let us know so that we can spread the word!